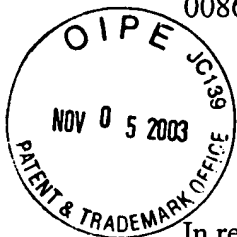


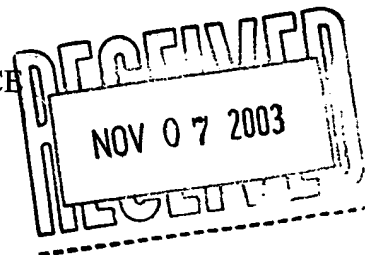
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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

TOMOO IIZUMI ET AL.

Application No.: 09/471,192

Filed: December 23, 1999

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM

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Examiner: J. Grant, II

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Group Art Unit: 2626

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Technology Center 2600

)
:
November 3, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed, as well as a copy of an August 11, 2003, Japanese Office Action Report citing the listed Japanese documents.

Each of the listed documents was first cited in any counterpart application on August 11, 2003 (in that Japanese Office Action Report), or is submitted as a U.S. counterpart of one of the cited Japanese documents.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, except JP 07-135575 and JP 08-139953, is provided by the English-language abstracts attached thereto.

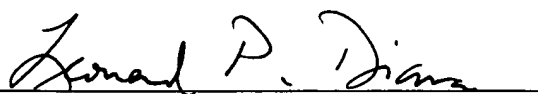
For the concise statement of relevance of non-English document JP 07-135575, the Examiner is respectfully referred to English-language counterpart U.S. Patent 5,748,343.

Also, for the concise statement of relevance of non-English document 08-139953, the Examiner is respectfully referred to English-language counterpart U.S. Patent 6,323,958 B1.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 28,286

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